

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2000

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SUBJ: FRONT PAGE PEOPLES DAILY ARTICLE REVIEWS PARTY HISTORY

REF: PEKING 1970

1. SUMMARY: A FRONT PAGE JUNE 30 PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE BY YUEH PING REVIEWS PARTY HISTORY IN ANTICIPATION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY ON JULY 1. THE ARTICLE CASTIGATES "THOSE CADRES" WHO ARE AFRAID TO STEP FORWARD AND WARNS THAT SOME CADRES DO NOT APPRECIATE THE SERIOUS THREAT OF THE "PERNICIOUS INFLUENCE" OF LIN PAO AND THE GANG OF FOUR . WHEN DISCUSSING THE STRUGGLES OF THE PAST DECADE, YUEH PING EXCLUDES LIU SHAO-CHI AS "CHINA'S KHRUSHCHEV" (BUT DOES INCLUDE LIU AS HEAD OF ONE OF THE THREE CAPITALIST "HEADQUARTERS") AND INSTEAD PINS THIS LABEL DIRECTLY ON LIN PIAO AND THE GANG OF FOUR. THE ARTICLE'S SHARP TONE SUGGESTS THAT THE CAMPIAGN IS INCREASINGLY FOCUSING ON CADRES
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ONCE ASSOCIATED WITH LIN PIAO AND THE GANG OF FOUR. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A JUNE 24 FRONT PAGE PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE ("THE HISTORICAL TIDE SWIRLS FORWARD"), YUEH PING REVIEWS PARTY HISTORY IN ANTICIPATION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY ON JULY 1. YUEH PING (PRESUMABLY A PSEUDONYM) STATES

THAT THE CCP HAS BEEN TEMPERED BY CONSTANT STRUGGLE AGAINST INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ENEMIES. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY TWISTS AND TURNS, BUT THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY MUST TRULY REPRESENT THE PEOPLE. A POLITICAL LINE IS CORRECT, ONLY IF IT REPRESENTS THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. SOME PEOPLE, THE AUTHOR STATES, WISH TO ERASE THIS PRINCIPLE WHICH IS THE ESSENCE OF MARXISM-Leninism-MAO Tse-tung THOUGH.

3. THE AUTHOR ALSO TAKES A HARD LINE TOWARD THOSE WHO UNDERESTIMATE THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE "PERNICIOUS INFLUENCE" OF LIN PIAO AND THE GANG OF FOUR. YUEH PING SINGLES OUT FOR SPECIAL CRITICISM FENCESITTERS AND THOSE WHO "LAG BEHIND" IN POLITICAL MOVEMENTS. SUCH FORCES ARE BLOCKING THE ADVANCE OF HISTORY. WHILE THE COUNTRY HAS "BASICALLY" COMPLETED INVESTIGATION OF LIN PIAO AND THE GANG OF FOUR, THE INVESTIGATION HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETELY FINISHED. THERE ARE STILL ELEMENTS WHO ARE VESTIGES OF LIN PIAO AND THE GANG OF FOUR AND WILL COME OUT AND CAUSE CONFUSION." YUEH PING ALSO INTIMATES THAT SOME YOUTH CONTINUE TO SYMPATHIZE WITH GANG OF FOUR POLICIES - A POSSIBLE ALLUSION TO TENSION IN THE UNIVERSITIES CAUSED BY THE CURRENT EDUCATION REFORMS.

4. THE ARTICLE ALSO APPEARS TO BE AN AUTHORITATIVE RESTATEMENT ON LIU SHAO-CHI'S POLITICAL STANDING. HERETOFORE, LIU HAS BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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IDENTIFIED AS "CHINA'S KHRUSHCHEV" AND THE LEADING REPRESENTATIVE OF REVISIONIST TENDENCIES IN THE PRC. INSTEAD, YUEH PING IDENTIFIES LIN PIAO AND THE GANG OF FOUR AS "CHINA'S KHRUSHCHEV" AND OMITTS LIU SHAO-CHI'S NAME -- AN OMISSION THAT HAS NOT GONE UNNOTICED BY CHINESE STAFF MEMBERS OF SEVERAL UNIVERSITIES HERE. EVEN THOUGH CHARGES AGAINST LIU APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SOFTENED, HE IS FAR FROM BEING COMPLETELY REHABILITATED. YUEH STILL IDENTIFIES LIU AS THE HEAD OF ONE OF THE THREE CAPITALIST HEADQUARTERS, DEFEATED DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND HIS REVISIONIST TENDENCIES ARE STILL INVOKED IN THE STANDARD BRIEFINGS THAT TRAVELERS RECEIVE IN THE PRC.

5. COMMENT: MORE DIRECTLY THAN MOST RECENT ARTICLES, YUEH PING LINKS LIN PIAO WITH THE GANG OF FOUR AS AN OBJECT FOR SCORN. WITHOUT DIRECTLY RAISING THE ISSUE, THE AUTHOR'S INTENTION TO CRITICIZE LIN PIAO AND HIS IMPLIED REEVALUATION OF LIU SHAO-CHI'S STATUS AS "CHINA'S KHRUSHCHEV" RAISES SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTINUED POLITICAL VIABILITY OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. ITS HARD-HITTING TONE AGAINST FENCESITTERS, AND OTHERS IDENTIFIED AS LIN PIAO/GANG OF FOUR ELEMENTS SUGGESTS THAT

THE CAMPAIGN ABOUT TO HEAT UP AND INCREASINGLY CONCENTRATE
ON SPECIFIC TARGETS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING LI TEH-SHENG, WU TEH
OR OTHERS FORMERLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE GANG OF FOUR.
WOODCOCK

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